

6. Dates of Publication of the Separate Parts of Gmelin's Edition (13th) of the 'Systema Naturæ' of Linnæus.
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[Received November 11, 1907.]

In this edition of the 'Systema Naturæ,' the first volume, which contains the Animal Kingdom, is in seven parts, with a titlepage dated 1788 in the first part only, the other parts not being dated. In some of these, however, there is evidence of a later date of publication, for references are given to works published more recently than 1788, but without their dates being stated. Each part really forms a volume.

The importance in questions of priority of a knowledge of the dates induced the writer to endeavour to ascertain them, and the method adopted was to search in the Catalogue of the Library of the British Museum for bibliographical works published about the end of the 18th century, in order to get contemporary evidence. Eventually a work was found which gave the desired information, and also references to journals containing notices or reviews of one or more of the parts as they successively appeared*. Nearly all of these were found to be in the Library of the Museum, and have been searched, with other contemporaneous journals, the result being that not only have the years of publication of all the parts of this edition of the 'Systema Naturæ' been ascertained, but it has been found possible in some cases to arrive at a still nearer approximation to the time of issue.

For instance, the Index, forming Part 7, published in 1792, was noticed on the 2nd of July in that year, and therefore must have appeared in the first half of the year.

In giving in a tabular form the result of this investigation, it has been thought advisable to add the dates of publication of the remaining volumes of this edition of the 'Systema' (vol. ii. being in two parts, the second part undated), although they are not zoological. The last column shows the earliest notice found; there may be earlier ones.

Some errors in contemporary records have been detected. In the 'Allgemeine deutsche Bibliothek,' 1790, the date for the second part of the first volume is given as 1788 instead of 1789, but in reviewing the third part the Editor, doubtless warned by this error, wisely refrained from giving it a date. He correctly dated subsequent parts, except the Index, for which no date is given. In the 'Efemeridi litterarie di Roma' for the 2nd of July, 1791, the first five parts were reviewed, and owing to the misleading titlepage the date for all was given as 1788.

* 'Systematisches Verzeichniss,' 1785-1790 (Jena, 1795); 1791-1795 (Weimar, 1799). [Entered under Catalogues.]

CAROLI A LINNÆI. Systema Naturae per Regna tria Naturae.
Ed. 13. Cura Jo. Frid. Gmelin. Tomi 3. 8vo. Lipsiae,
1788-1793.

TOMUS I.	REGNUM ANIMALIUM.	Date of	
		Publi- cation.	Earliest notice.
Pars I.	pp. 12, 1-500. Mammalia to Aves.—Picae	1788	25. 7. 88
„ II.	„ 2, 501-1032. Aves.—Anseres to Passeres	1789	20. 4. 89
„ III.	„ 2, 1033-1516. Amphibia to Pisces	1789	20. 11. 89
„ IV.	„ 2, 1517-2224. Insecta.—Coleoptera to Hemiptera	1790	21. 5. 90
„ V.	„ 2, 2225-3020. „ Lepidoptera to Aptera...	1790	6. 12. 90
„ VI.	„ 2, 3021-3910. Vermes	1791	14. 5. 91
„ VII.	„ 2, 3911-4120. Index	1792	2. 7. 92
TOMUS II.	REGNUM VEGETABILE.		
Pars I.	pp. 2, i-xl, 1-884. Monandria to Polyandria	1791	4. 2. 92
„ II.	„ 2, 885-1662. Didynamia to Cryptogamia	1792	15. 11. 92
TOMUS III.	REGNUM LAPIDEUM.		
	pp. 1-476, tab. i-iii.	1793	25. 7. 93

The same five parts were noticed in the 'Monthly Review' for December 1792 (vol. ix.), the dates of publication being given as 1788-91, a period which covers Part 6. This notice begins: "A work so voluminous as this is now become could not be expected to start forth, like Minerva from Jupiter's brain, at once in complete form. Part after part has made its appearance in regular succession, and although we have not yet seen the whole work entire, we understand that it either is so or will be so very shortly." It was completed early in the following year.

The only recent publications in which the date of any part subsequent to the first has been correctly given are, it is believed, those of the Ray Society, the discovery having been made in 1906 during the preparation of the synonymy for the second volume of Alder and Hancock's 'British Tunicata' (1907); and these notes are now published on the suggestion of Mr. C. Davies Sherborn, who has done much valuable work in zoological bibliography and was already aware that the date on the titlepage of vol. i. of Gmelin's 'Linnæus' did not apply to the whole of the parts in that volume.